VII. *An Account of an* American Armadilla: *By* William Watſon, *M. D. F. R. S.*

To the Royal Society.

Gentlemen,

Read Feb. 9, 1764. I Herewith lay before you, for your inſpection, the drawing, by the ingenious Mr. Paillou, of an animal very ſeldom, if ever, ſeen alive in England [TAB. VII.]. It is now alive in excellent health, and in the poſſeſſion of the right honourable the Lord Southwell. It is called by Linnæus, in his Syſtema Naturæ, Daſypus cingulis novem, palmis tetradactylis, plantis pentadactylis.

Marcgrave and Ray have both deſcribed it under the appellation of Tatue Braſilienſicus. Albert Seba has likewiſe deſcribed it in the firſt volume of his elegant and elaborate Muſeum. He calls it Tatou, ſive Armadillus Americanus. The figure attending his deſcription is taken from a dead animal. The drawing therefore is hard and ſtiff, and the colouring does by no means come up to the living animal.

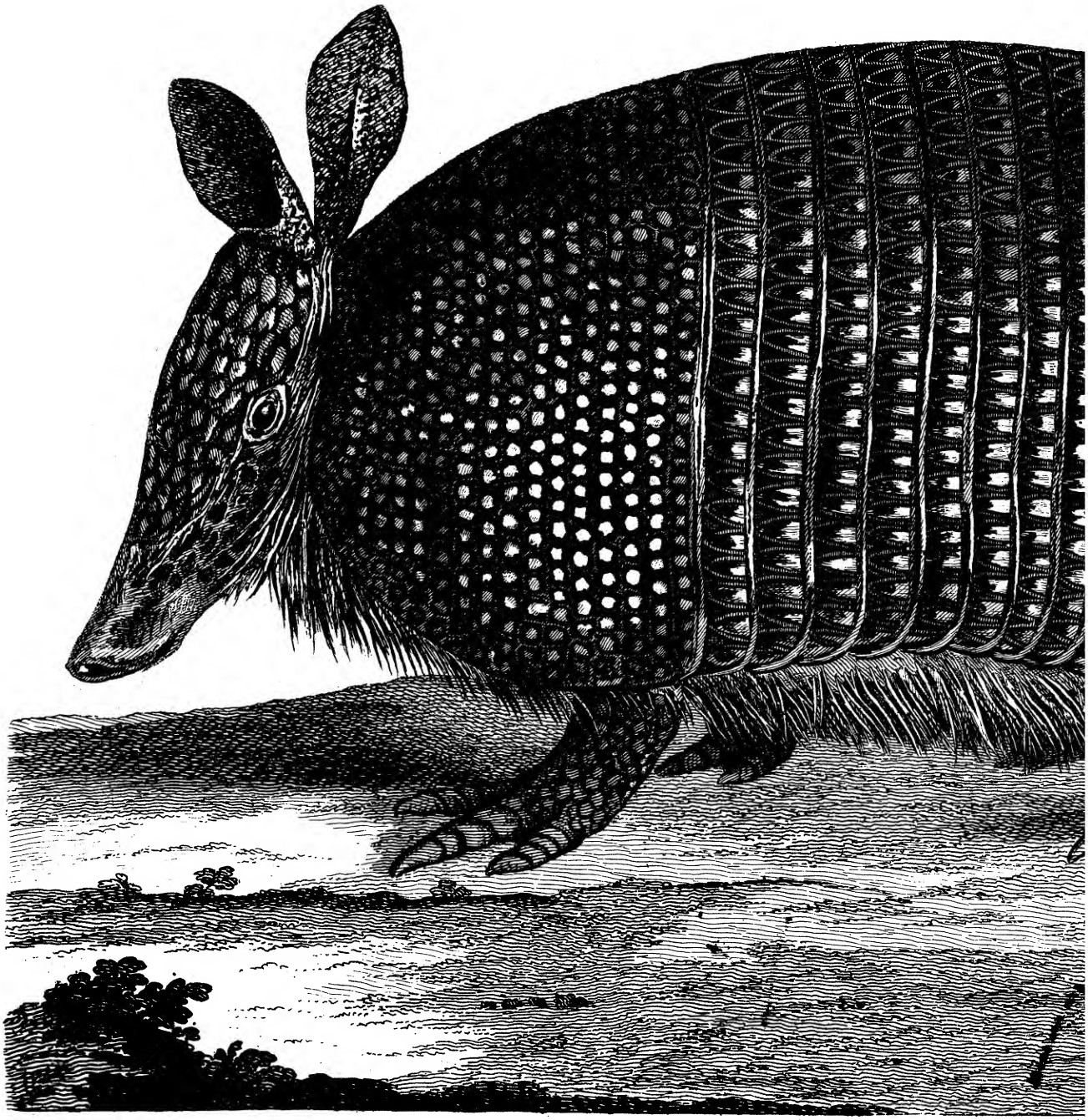
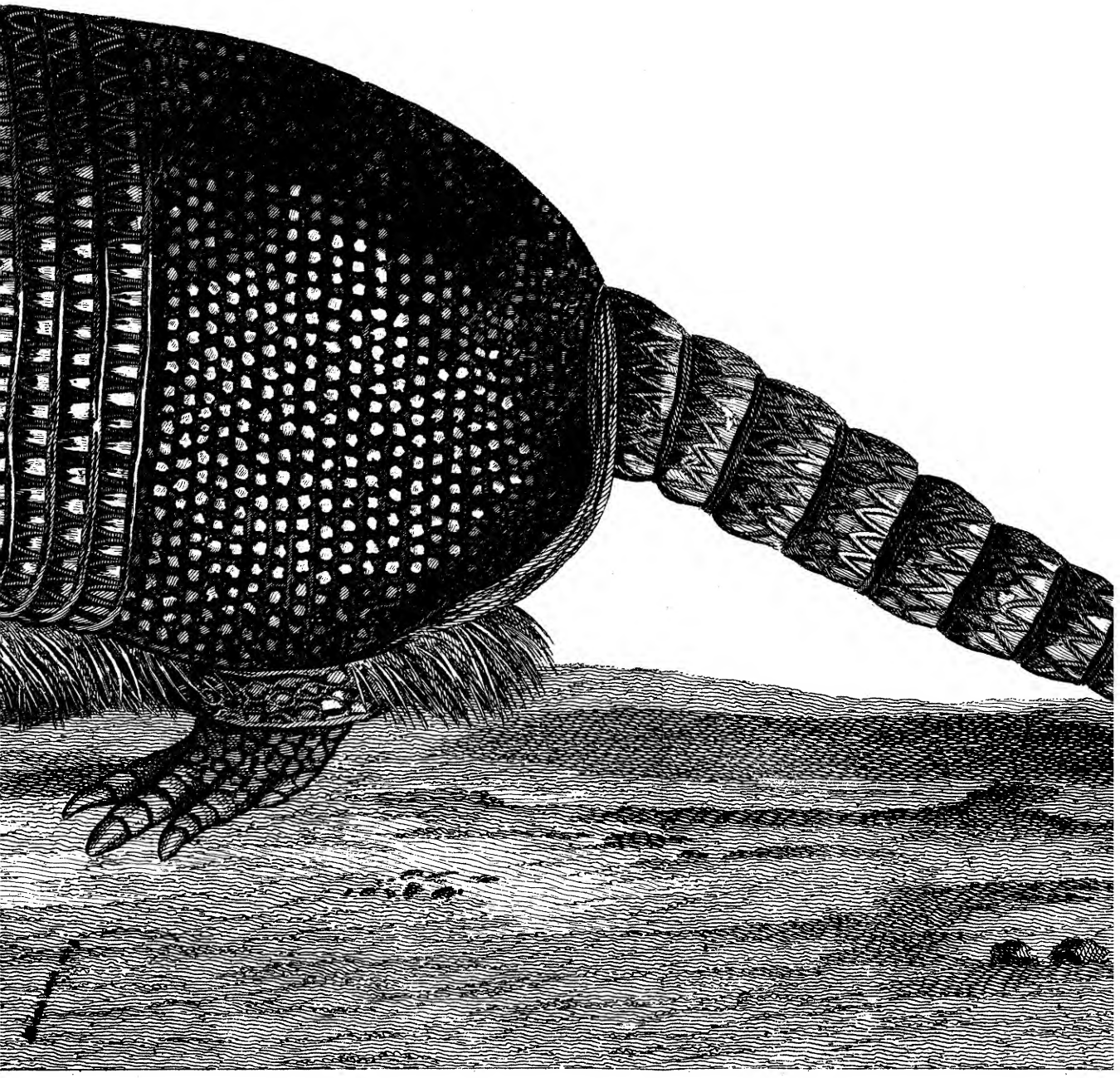
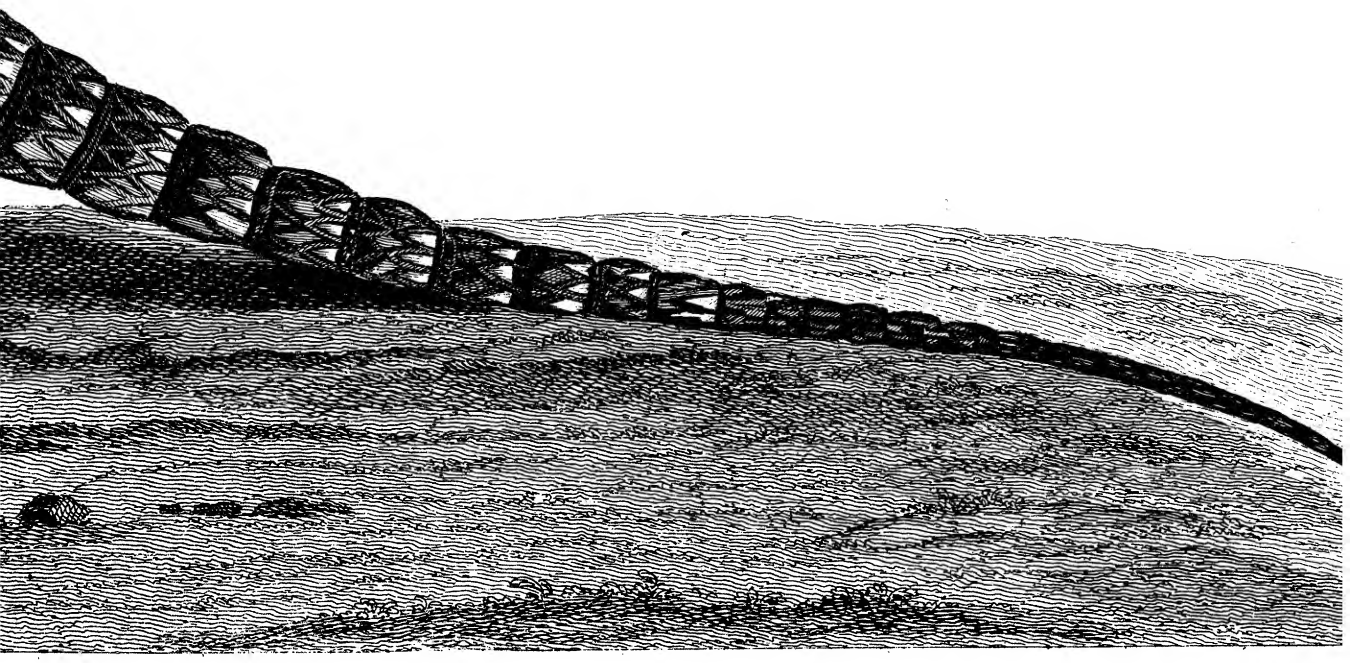
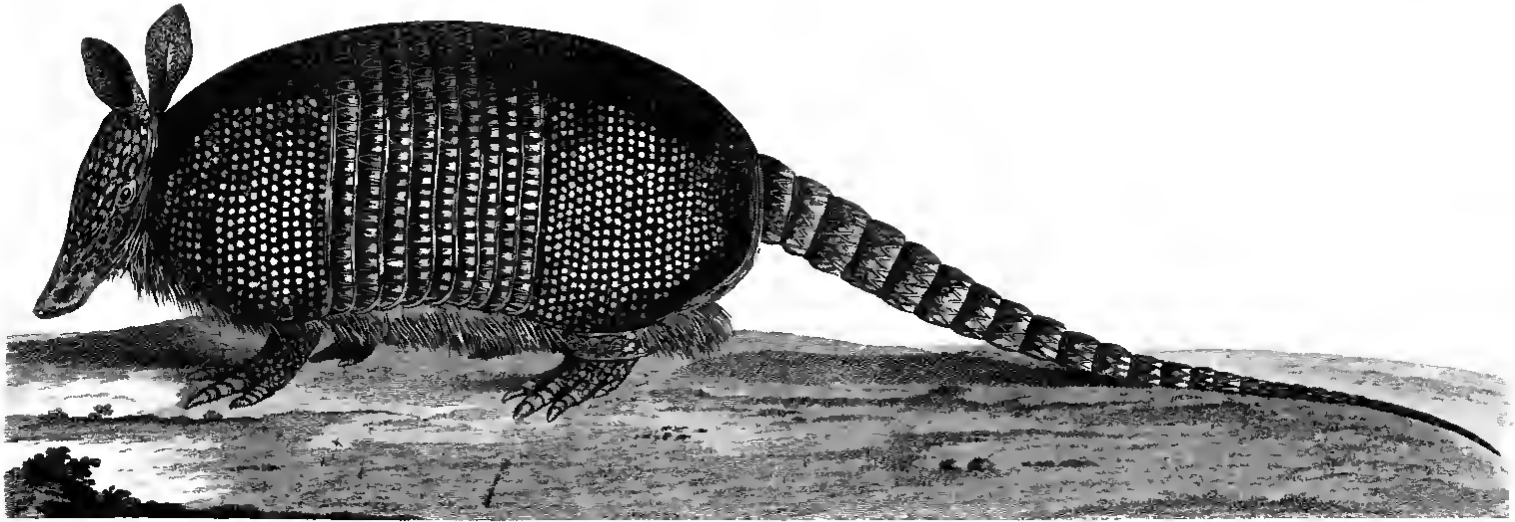
This creature, which is called by naturaliſts the American Armadilla, was brought hither a few months ſince to Lord Southwell, from the country near what is uſually called the Moſquito ſhore, upon the American continent. Its weight is ſeven pounds

avoirdupois, and its ſize that of a common cat. It is a male, and has improved greatly both in appearance and colour, ſince it has been in his Lordſhip's poſſeſſion. It is fed with raw beef and milk, and refuſes our grain and fruits. In its own country, according to the accounts of thoſe who treat of it, it burrows in the ground.

As there is no good figure of this animal exiſting in any of the authors, who have treated of it; and as Lord Southwell has been ſo obliging as to permit me to have one taken of it by the before-mentioned able artiſt; I had reaſon to believe, that the inſpection of it would not be diſagreeable to the Society. I am, with all imaginable regard,

Gentlemen,

Feb. 9, 1764. Your moſt obedient,

humble Servant.

W. Watſon.